Digital Webbing

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E-MAN: RECHARGED

ONE-SHOT

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NICK CUTI - JOE STATON

E-MAN™

THE ENERGY MAN FROM THE STARS IS BACK!

Staton

E-MAN RECHARGED!

by Michael Ambrose

What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?

The irresistible force is E-Man. The immovable object is that lump in your throat. You're choked up and hoarse and practically teary-eyed over this brand-new comic book you hold in your shaky hands. Memories come in a flood. And suddenly, it's 1975 all over again!

Or maybe 1985. Or 1990. Or–

Either way, you're thrilled to be buying new E-Man comics once more. Courtesy of the original creators, Nicola Cuti and Joe Staton, and the good folks at Digital Webbing, your wish has come true. For all true-blue fans, it has surely been worth the wait. And if you're new to E-Man, I envy you. You're in for a tasty treat!

Longtime readers know the character's fancy-free publishing history: The original 10-issue run at Charlton Comics from 1973 to 1975. Another 25 issues at First Comics, 1983 to 1985, plus reprints of the Charlton run. Comico's 1989 one-shot and 1990 three-issue miniseries. Further one-shots in 1993 and 1994 from Alpha Productions. E-Man's appearance in print is a multiform, elusive, many-faceted thing, as unpredictable and eel-like as the Big E himself when he zips along a telephone wire or assumes the shape of a handy hat tree or talking fire hydrant.

What makes E-Man such an enduring figure in comics? That's like trying to pin down the essential ingredient in a very special, spicy gumbo. E-Man and Nova are a striking partnership of wide-eyed innocence and bright-eyed secular wisdom that makes for intricate and engaging interplay. "Nova is a very complex character, very worldly wise, extremely intelligent," says Nick. "E-Man is very innocent, and she becomes his guide, taking care of him and watching out for him."

Way back in 1973, working up an original concept to throw into the kitty in the gamble Charlton Comics was taking with superheroes again, Nick decided it was time for something different. "Spider-Man co-creator Steve Ditko pointed out that E-Man can't be hurt, there's no way he can be destroyed, he could never really be in any serious danger. So I decided, let's just have some fun. E-Man was kind of a satire on all the superheroes."

The concept was a blend of Plastic Man and Albert Einstein. "I wanted to come up with something *like* Plastic Man that wasn't Plastic Man. I was always a great admirer of Einstein and his formula, $E=mc^2$. There was my superhero. He's energy, but he can transform into any form of matter."

Nick thought about working with Joe Staton on a superhero even before he came up with E-Man. Joe convinced Nick to ditch the first, conventional Captain Atom-like origin. "Marvel Comics and Stan Lee had a lock on the atomic origin of powers," Joe says. "It was a little too familiar."

So Nick rethought E-Man and came up with something far more original, if not downright unique: A sentient energy being born in the explosion of a star who drifts through space and eventually finds a home on Earth, likes it, and decides to stick around.

He first appears inside a lightbulb above the dressing table of nightclub stripper Nova Kane, who's studying geology in college and paying her way as a dancer. From that point on, E-Man mostly assumes human form. "He wanted to look nice for Nova," says Joe.

Let's not forget the villains. E-Man's first and deadliest foe, The Brain from Sirius. The Entropy Twins. Samuel Boar. It's a long list.

Or how about the supporting cast: Teddy Q. General Dove. And, of course, Michael Mauser, Private Eye.

The E-Man recipe includes so many more ingredients, but some of those are secret and best saved for the thrill of discovery. Right now it's time to settle into your favorite comics-reading chair, bend the lamp down low, and relax with your new *E-Man* book.

It's been too long!

Michael Ambrose is editor and publisher of Charlton Spotlight, *a magazine devoted to the history of the Charlton Comics Group. Visit his website at* www.charltonspotlight.com

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BURLESQUE HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR--BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL CHICAGO 1925, WHEN DANCER **HINDA WASSAU** LOST PART OF HER COSTUME ONSTAGE THAT **THE STRIPPER** WAS BORN. IN ALL THE YEARS SINCE, HOWEVER, THERE HAS **NEVER** BEEN A STRIPPER LIKE COLLEGE CO-ED **NOVA KANE.**

SEE NO EVIL!

SHOW US WHAT YOUR MAMA GAVE YOU! AND I ***DON'T*** MEAN YOUR ***REAL NAME!***

HEY, NOVA! IF I SAID YOU'VE GOT A ***BEAUTIFUL BODY,*** WOULD YOU HOLD IT AGAINST ME?

OH, ***PULEEZE!***

WRITTEN BY
NICK CUTI
ART BY
JOE STATON
ED DUKESHIRE - LETTERER
MATT WEBB - COLORIST
RANDY BUCCINI
EDITOR

THERE'S THAT ***FREAKY*** LOOKING GUY IN THE FRONT ROW AGAIN.

THIS MAKES IT FOUR DAYS IN A ROW.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER DOLLAR.

ANOTHER 8,468 AND MY TUITION IS PAID...NOT INCLUDING BOOKS.

HEY, ROSIE.

IF ANYONE'S LOOKING FOR ME, I'LL BE IN MY DRESSING ROOM.

SURE, KID.

THE *"PRINCESS"* GETS HER OWN PRIVATE DRESSING ROOM. AIN'T *SHE* SPECIAL!

UH OH.

I HEARD THAT, *NEWBIE.*

YIIIIII!

WHAT!

SORRY, I...*SORRY.*

YOU KNOW, SHE'S REALLY NICE ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HER.

AND I THOUGHT IT WAS THE *CUSTOMERS* I HAD TO WATCH OUT FOR.

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE USING MY *ENERGY POWERS* LIKE THAT. GUESS I'M MORE STRESSED ABOUT MY *MID-TERMS* THAN I THOUGHT.

ONLY TWO HOURS LEFT TO STUDY FOR MY EXAM...

...AND I CAN'T SEEM TO GET THAT *WEIRDO* IN THE FRONT ROW OUT OF MY HEAD.

I FEEL LIKE HE'S STILL WATCH-- *WHOA!!*

THE MIRROR! SHE'S SEEN ME.

HOW'D YOU GET IN-- *HUH?!?*

NOBODY THERE.

DOOR'S LOCKED. AND THERE AREN'T ANY WINDOWS IN HERE.

GREAT. NOW I'M *SEEING* THINGS.

LATER, AT XANADU U., NOVA PLACES AN INTERPLANETARY PHONE CALL TO HER BEAU, ALEC TRONN, A.K.A. E-MAN...

HI, *SWEETIE!* HOW'S THE *MARS MISSION* GOING? DO YOU *MISS* ME? ARE YOU *BORED* WITHOUT ME?

HI, *HON!* OF *COURSE* I MISS YOU.

BUT I CAN'T *EXACTLY* SAY THINGS ARE *DULL HERE* AT THE MOMENT!

WHAT'S ALL THAT *NOISE?*

ENEMY FIRE! GENERAL DOVE WAS RIGHT. THERE'S A *SABOTEUR* TRYING TO STOP OUR WORK ON THE SPACE STATION!

MARS

TZANG!

TATZ!

TZANG!

AND SHE'S *HEAVILY* ARMED!

SHE?! IS "SHE" PRETTIER THAN ME?

THERE'S NO ONE PRETTIER THAN YOU, *DEAR.* YOU KNOW THAT.

HANG ON, GUYS! I'LL GET YOU BACK TO BASE CAMP!

ALEC! ARE YOU STILL THERE?

GIMME A MINUTE, NOVA! I'VE GOT TO PUT A STOP TO THIS *NOW!*

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE FROM, LADY. BUT I'M HERE TO KEEP THIS PLACE *SAFE--*

--AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

TCHOOM! TCHOOM! TCHOOM!

I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT YOUR *FOOL-HARDY* SPACE PROGRAM! IT'S *YOU* I--

TZOW!

NOT SO TOUGH *NOW*, ARE YA?

ZZZT!

FWAP!

ALEC? YOU OKAY?

HEY, HON. I'M FINE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. SHE JUST-- DISAPPEARED.

HOW MUCH LONGER YOU PLAN ON BEING UP THERE?

THE GENERAL FIGURES ANOTHER TWO WEEKS SHOULD DO IT.

I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

I REALLY MISS THE BIG GUY.

AH, WELL. JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR A SNACK BEFORE MY TEST.

AFETERI

INSIDE...

HEY, *NOVA*, WHAT'S UP?

HEY, *ARACHNE*. I'VE GOT A TEST IN 20 MINUTES. THOUGHT A LITTLE CHOCOLATE CAKE MIGHT GIVE ME A BOOST.

$4.95 FOR A FLUFFERNUTTER... *INSANITY.*

OH, NO. IT'S THAT GUY FROM THE CLUB. I SEE A *RESTRAINING ORDER* IN MY FUTURE.

HELLO, NOVA.

UH...HI.

NO REASON TO BE *ALARMED.* I'M A STUDENT HERE...AND A FAN...OF YOUR... *WORK.*

MY NAME'S *SEYMOUR...* SEYMOUR CLEARY. NICE TO *FORMALLY* MEET YOU.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME? I-- OH, HERE COMES MY GIRLFRIEND.

SEYMOUR?

NOVA KANE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET *SARAH BELLUM.*

SARAH, THIS IS NOVA KANE...YOU REMEMBER, WE TALKED ABOUT HER.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

LIKEWISE.

LET'S GO, SEYMOUR! WE'RE GONNA BE *LATE* FOR THAT *THING.*

OH-- *RIGHT.*

NICE TALKING WITH YOU, NOVA. I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

UH...YEAH. SEE YA.

WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING?!* I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE CONTACT WITH OUR *SUBJECT* LIKE THAT!

I WILL *NOT* TOLERATE ANOTHER *DISASTER* LIKE YOUR *SCREW-UP* ON CORVUS IX.

YOU'RE *ABSOLUTELY* RIGHT, SARAH. IT WAS VERY UNPROFESSIONAL OF ME TO APPROACH OUR TARGET LIKE THAT.

YOU *ALWAYS* KNOW WHAT'S BEST, DARLING.

YOU'D DO *WELL* TO REMEMBER THAT.

AND *YOU'D* DO WELL TO REMEMBER *THIS!*

I'VE HEARD *ENOUGH* OUT OF YOU AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO RUN THIS OPERATION!

YOU PROVED ON *MARS* YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!

THIS MISSION IS *MINE* NOW!

I'LL *TOY* WITH KANE FOR AS *LONG* AS I LIKE!

AND THEN I'LL ACCOMPLISH WHAT *YOU* COULD NOT--THE *OBLITERATION* OF *E-MAN!*

TWO HOURS LATER, TWO BLOCKS AWAY...

DADDY, LOOK AT THE PRETTY *KITTEN!* CAN I *HAVE* HER? CAN WE TAKE HER *HOME?*

NOVA

AW, HONEY-- I'M SURE A GOOD-LOOKIN' *TABBY* LIKE THAT IS ALREADY SOMEBODY'S *PET.*

LET'S CHECK HER TAGS.

BACK OFF, PAL! I'M *NOBODY'S* PET!

SHE *TALKS,* DADDY!

JUST LIKE MY *DOLLY!*

WE BETTER GET HOME, HONEY.

IT'S TIME FOR DADDY'S XANAX.

EVEN TAKING THESE *PRECAUTIONS,* I STILL CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING I'M BEING *WATCHED...* OR *FOLLOWED.*

AH! IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.

NOW I CAN RELAX.

I THINK I'LL TAKE A NICE HOT BATH.

GOTTA ADMIT, IT'S A LITTLE BIT LONELY HERE WITHOUT ALEC AROUND.

GEOLOGY

DIE

CHIPZ

MAYO

I DO LIKE THE WAY HE SCRUBS MY BACK.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THINGS MYSELF FOR A WHILE.

I'VE PROBABLY BECOME A LITTLE TOO DEPENDENT ON THE BIG GUY LATELY, ANYWAY.

TZANG!

WHA--

WHO?!

THERE YOU ARE! I SEE YOU.

DAMN MY *REFLECTION!*

THE *MIRRORS* GIVE YOU AWAY. DON'T THEY, *MR. INVISIBLE MAN?*

TZAP!

TOO MANY MIRRORS IN--*UNGH!*

I DON'T *SEE* YOU BUT I *KNOW* YOU'RE THERE!

HE--HE'S GONE. BUT WHERE DID HE GO?

THIS IS REALLY FREAKING ME OUT.

WHO *IS* THIS GUY?!?

THAT GUN OF HIS COMPLETELY BLEW MY HAND AWAY... TEMPORARILY, I KNOW... BUT *STILL...*

I HAVEN'T FELT THIS *RATTLED* SINCE...

WELL...SINCE I *GOT* THESE *SUPER-POWERS* IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT NO-GOOD ZILLIONAIRE *SAMUEL BOAR* USED ME TO LURE E-MAN TO *NUCLIA*-- HIS UNDERGROUND WORLD.

BUT WHEN THE SUBTERRANEAN KINGDOM'S *MINIATURE SUN* EXPLODED--

NOVA...? ARE YOU...?

--I ENDED UP WITH ENERGY POWERS OF MY *OWN!*

I'LL NEVER PAY AN *ELECTRIC BILL* AGAIN!

EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE FELT PRETTY MUCH *INVULNERABLE.*

BUT THIS... MAYBE I SHOULD--

OH.

OH, MY GOD!

I'LL BE WATCHING YOU!

THE RED PLANET, SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

OKAY, GUYS! THAT'S THE LAST HOOK-UP.

ONE FULLY LOADED COMMUNICATIONS RELAY TOWER READY FOR ACTION.

THANKS, E-MAN! WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP...AND I DON'T MEAN JUST THE *CONSTRUCTION.*

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* WE WOULD HAVE DONE IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND WHEN THAT *SABOTEUR* SHOWED UP.

WELL, I CAN'T REALLY TAKE *CREDIT* FOR THAT. SHE PRETTY MUCH *DISAPPEARED* ON HER OWN.

LOOKS LIKE ALL SYSTEMS ARE 'GO'! I'M FIRING UP THE TOWER.

OMG

HEY, E-MAN! WE'VE PICKED UP A CALL FOR YOU FROM *EARTH.* SHE SAYS IT'S *URGENT!* I'M PATCHING HER THROUGH.

NOVA?

ALEC, IT'S ROSIE--FROM THE CLUB. NOVA'S MISSING! NO ONE'S SEEN HER FOR DAYS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO CALL!

SLOW DOWN, ROSIE. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

DON'T HANG UP!

NOW WHAT'S THIS ABOUT NOVA MISSING?

YIII!

SH-SHE HASN'T SHOWN UP FOR WORK ALL WEEK! AND THE LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE WAS SERIOUSLY WIGGED OUT.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE MIRRORS?

NOVA'S ALWAYS HAD A HEALTHY EGO... AND SHE'S A BIT OF AN EXHIBITIONIST. BUT I DON'T THINK I'D EVER CALL HER A NARCISSIST.

NAR-WHO?

WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE MIRRORS?

SHE SAID IT WAS THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD SEE HIM COMING.

SEE WHO?

THAT'S THE WEIRD PART. NOVA SAID SHE WAS BEING STALKED BY AN INVISIBLE MAN.

INVISIBLE, HUH?

SHE WAS ACTING ALL CRAZY. THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE.

THANKS, ROSIE. I'M GLAD YOU CALLED. I'M GONNA HEAD OVER TO THE APARTMENT AND SEE IF SHE'S THERE.

NOVA?

HONEY?

YOU *HOME?*

I GUESS SHE DIDN'T FEEL SAFE *HERE,* EITHER.

FROM THE SMELL OF THIS *LO MEIN,* SHE HASN'T BEEN HOME FOR QUITE AWHILE.

HMMM. WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S NOVA'S HANDWRITING...

Yesterday upon the stair
I met a man who wasn't there
He wasn't there again today
I wish that man would go away

SHE'S NEVER BEEN MUCH FOR *POETRY.* WHAT'S SHE TRYING TO TELL ME?

NO SIGN OF HER ON CAMPUS...

I'M NOT SURE *WHERE* TO LOOK NEXT...

...BUT I KNOW ONE GUY WHO CAN HELP ME UNRAVEL THIS *PUZZLE* IN A HURRY!

MICHAEL MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY

CREDIT DENTIST

NOTHING HAS ADVANCED THE FIELD OF **PRIVATE INVESTIGATION** MORE THAN THE **PERSONAL COMPUTER.** COMBINED WITH THE RESOURCES OF THE **WORLD WIDE WEB,** IT AIDS PRIVATE DETECTIVES LIKE **MICHAEL MAUSER** IN CRACKING EVEN THE MOST **COMPLEX** OF CASES.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A FRIEND ON **MYSPACE,** ANYWAY?

YAAAA!

MIKE! YOU GOTTA **HELP** ME! NOVA'S **MISSING!** SHE'S NOT **HOME!** SHE'S NOT AT THE CLUB! **NOBODY'S** SEEN HER!

A **DOOR!** YOU COULDN'T **KNOCK** ON A DOOR?!

SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU. I'M JUST **GLAD** YOU'RE HERE. I'M REALLY **WORRIED** ABOUT NOVA.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON THE **MOON.**

MARS, ACTUALLY.

HEY--WHAT'S **TEDDY** DOING HERE?

CHEEZ WIZZ

YOUR **GIRLFRIEND** LEFT HIM ON MY DOORSTEP A COUPLA DAYS AGO.

SHE **DID?**

SOMETHING'S **WRONG** HERE, MIKE. SHE **LOADED** HER APARTMENT AND DRESSING ROOM WITH **MIRRORS**--SAID IT WAS THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD SEE HER INVISIBLE **STALKER!**

NOW SHE'S **DISAPPEARED!**

MISSING

ONIONS

AFTER REVIEWING NOVA'S **"POETRY"...**

IT'S AN OLD KIDS RHYME, **OBVIOUSLY** A REFERENCE TO THIS **CLAUDE RAINS** GUY. BUT CHECK THIS OUT--THE **NOTE** SHE LEFT WITH **TEDDY...** I DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT AT THE **TIME,** BUT YOU MAY BE ONTO SOMETHING...

*"MIKE--PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON TEDDY. NEED TO GET AWAY FOR A FEW DAYS...SPEND SOME TIME ALONE...DO SOME **REFLECTING.** HAVEN'T HAD A MINUTE TO MYSELF SINCE MY **FIRST DATE** WITH ALEC. THANKS, NOVA."*

"P.S. DON'T FEED HIM ANY ANCHOVIES."

WHAT ARE YOU *THINKING?*

I'M THINKING I DON'T NEED A *COMPUTER* TO FIGURE THIS ONE OUT.

C'MON, TRONN. LET'S GO FIND YOUR *GIRL!*

I DON'T GET IT, MIKE.

C'MON, KID! SHE NEEDS TO DO SOME "*REFLECTING*"? ANOTHER *MIRROR* REFERENCE.

AN' IF YOU TOLD ME *ONCE* HOW YOU OVERDOSED ON *COTTON CANDY* DURIN' YOUR FIRST DATE WITH NOVA, YOU TOLD ME A *MILLION TIMES!*

JEK

9MM

OUR *FIRST DATE!* THE *AMUSEMENT PARK!*

HOUSE OF MIRRORS

NOW AN *ABANDONED*-- YET FORTUNATELY FULLY FUNCTIONAL-- AMUSEMENT PARK.

IF SHE NEEDS MIRRORS TO SEE THIS GUY COMIN', SHE COULDN'T DO BETTER THAN THIS PLACE.

POSTED

KEEP OU

NOVA?

ARE YOU IN HERE?

SHINE SOME OF THOSE *WATTS* OVER THIS WAY.

NO!! GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!

HERE SHE IS, MIKE!

NO!! TURN THOSE LIGHTS OFF! HE'LL SEE ME!

WHO'LL SEE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON, NOVA? WHO ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

IS HE HERE? DO YOU SEE HIM?

NOVA! IT'S ME! ALEC! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

A--ALEC?

YOU CAME. YOU FOUND ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GONNA DO... SO TIRED...NO SLEEP.

I KNOW. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A BUNCH.

GOOD TO SEE YOU, TOO, RED.

AFTER FILLING THE BOYS IN ON ALL SHE KNOWS...

I AM SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

ME TOO, HONEY.

FROM WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN', THIS GUY SEYMOUR SOUNDS PRETTY HI-TECH. COMBINE THAT WITH THE FACT HIS GIRLFRIEND'S NAME IS ACTUALLY "SARAH BELLUM"--ZERO POINTS FOR SUBTLETY, BY THE WAY--AN' I'D SAY IT'S TIME YOU TWO PAID A VISIT TO YOUR OLD NEMESIS, THE BRAIN FROM SIRIUS.

THANK YOU, MIKE! WE OWE YOU ONE.

THANKS, MAUSER!

WHAT WOULD THEY DO WITHOUT ME?

YOU HUNGRY, TEDDY?

I'M THINKIN' FLUFFERNUTTERS.

9mm

OLD SCHOOL. NEW ATTITUDE!

FIST OF JUSTICE

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I THOUGHT WE'D HEARD THE LAST FROM THE BRAIN AFTER OUR LAST RUN-IN.

I JUST HOPE HE'S STILL **HOLED UP** IN HIS OLD LAIR.

FUNNY. EVERYTHING **ALWAYS** SEEMS TO LEAD BACK TO THE BRAIN, DOESN'T IT?

UH OH. I FEEL A **FLASHBACK** COMING ON.

*WELL, YOU **KNEW** WE WERE GONNA GET AROUND TO IT SOONER OR LATER, DIDN'T YOU? HERE GOES!*

*SO WHO IS THIS **'BRAIN FROM SIRIUS'?** AND EXACTLY WHO--OR **WHAT** FOR THAT MATTER--IS **ALEC TRONN?***

*HIS STORY BEGAN MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO (OR CHARLTON COMICS' E-MAN #1, IF YOU PREFER) IN THE EXPLOSION OF AN UNKNOWN STAR. HE EMERGED AS A **SENTIENT** PACKET OF **ENERGY!***

I **AM** AND I KNOW THAT I AM, BUT WHO...**WHAT** AM I?

*HE TRAVELED AIMLESSLY THROUGH SPACE FOR EONS IN SEARCH OF OTHER **INTELLIGENCE,** FINALLY ENCOUNTERING A **STARSHIP** FROM THE PLANET **SIRIUS.***

*IT WAS IN THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE CRUISER THAT HE FIRST ENCOUNTERED **"THE BRAIN,"** EN ROUTE TO **PLUTO** TO ESTABLISH A **WEAPONS-TESTING BASE** TO AID THE ONGOING WAR ON SIRIUS.*

*BUT WHEN THE **INQUISITIVE** ENERGY ENTITY ASSUMED THE FORM OF ONE OF THE BRAIN'S ROBOT SLAVES...*

*...THE UNEXPECTED **ADDITIONAL MASS** CAUSED THE SHIP TO **VEER** OFF COURSE--*

*--CRASH LANDING ON THE PLANET **EARTH**--UPSTATE NEW YORK, AS A MATTER OF FACT.*

NOVA KANE HAD JUST FINISHED HER ACT AT THE MOIST PALMS CLUB WHEN A LIGHTBULB BEGAN TALKING TO HER.

I GOT CAUGHT ON SOME HIGH-TENSION WIRES AND WOUND UP HERE--PLEASE LET ME OUT.

THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT?

BUST THE BULB!

KAAAGH!

OKAY. I'LL PLAY ALONG.

THANKS, LADY. IT WAS GETTING MIGHTY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THERE.

OMIGOSH! WHA? WHAT ARE YOU?

ENERGY. JUST... ENERGY.

HE QUICKLY DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO ANY SHAPE OR MATTER.

IS THIS BETTER?

MUCH.

HEY! I MEANT GET IN THE CAR...NOT THE BATTERY.

WAKE ME IN THE MORNING, WILL YA?

I GUESS THAT'S ME-- E-MAN.

I LIKE IT!

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S TOO CHEESY, DO YOU?

YOU'RE MAKIN' IT WORK. TRUST ME.

NOVA BECAME HIS GUIDE ON THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD... HIS TEACHER...AND FRIEND.

"E=mc²" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT'S EINSTEIN'S FORMULA FOR CHANGING ENERGY INTO MATTER AND VICE VERSA. ENERGY EQUALS MASS TIMES THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

BOOM LAD

CAPT CART

IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, E-MAN TOOK TO **SUPER-HEROING** LIKE A DUCK TO WATER. AT THE SAME TIME, THE BRAIN FROM SIRIUS WAS **RELENTLESS** IN TESTING DEADLY WEAPONS HERE ON EARTH.

THESE ***ENTROPY TWINS*** MAY BE CUTE...BUT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE FAR FROM IT!

BEHOLD, E-MAN! THE LATEST ***ULTRA-WEAPON*** FROM SIRIUS!

I'LL FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE! I CAN BE A ***WAR MACHINE*** TOO, Y'KNOW.

AT **EVERY** TURN, THE SINISTER CEREBRUM'S **NEFARIOUS** PLANS WERE **THWARTED** BY E-MAN AND NOVA.

PRETTY LONG FLASHBACK.

YEAH, BUT I REALLY NEEDED THE BREAK.

A LONG FORGOTTEN CAVE IN THE CATSKILLS...

EVERYTHING'S SO STILL. THE BRAIN'S ALWAYS HAD ROBOTS GUARDING THE PERIMETER...

THERE! LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE OUT OF COMMISSION.

GOOD LORD!

WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?!? THE BRAIN'S *CRANIUM TANK*--IT'S BEEN *DESTROYED!*

IS HE--?

I...*STILL* LIVE... BUT NOT FOR LONG, I FEAR. HOW *FITTING* I SHOULD SEE THE TWO OF YOU...ONE FINAL T.ME BEFORE I...GO.

HOW'D THIS HAPPEN? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

IT'S A RATHER MUNDANE DEVELOPMENT, REALLY. IT APPEARS MY *SUPERIORS* ON SIRIUS FINALLY GOT AROUND TO REVIEWING MY *JOB PERFORMANCE.* THEY DECIDED TO *TERMINATE* ME...*LITERALLY.*

MY *REPLACEMENTS* GOT HERE A FEW DAYS AGO--*SARAH BELLUM,* THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION, AND HER ASSISTANT ASSASSIN, *SEYMOUR CLEARY.*

I THOUGHT *I* WAS *COLD-BLOODED* TILL I MET THESE TWO.

THEIR ORDERS WERE TO DESTROY ME *AND* THE *TWO BEINGS* SIRIUS HOLDS EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY WEAPONS-TESTING *FAILURES.*

I'M GUESSING THAT WOULD BE *US,* RIGHT?

AT LEAST I ALWAYS KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM *YOU*...NOT LIKE MY "FRIENDS" BACK AT THE HOME OFFICE... *FAREWELL...* AND... FORGIVE ME...

H-HE'S GONE.

YOU OKAY, HON?

I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY *"MIXED EMOTIONS,"* NOVA.

AS *HORRIBLE* AS THE BRAIN WAS... IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HIM, I NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE IT TO *EARTH.*

AW, ISN'T *THIS* A PRETTY PICTURE!

ALEC! IT'S SEYMOUR-- LOOK OUT!

I ONLY WISH I'D LET SARAH LIVE *LONG ENOUGH* TO SEE ME *ANNIHILATE* YOU!

THOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT, NOVA, DESPITE YOUR SKITTISHNESS, I'VE BECOME QUITE *ATTRACTED* TO YOU. I MIGHT EVEN BE WILLING TO OFFER YOU A TEMPORARY *REPRIEVE.*

STEP AWAY FROM YOUR *ENERGETIC* YOUNG FRIEND... AND JOIN ME. I PROMISE YOU A LIFE YOU WON'T *REGRET*...UNTIL I TIRE OF YOU, OF COURSE.

YOU HAVE *GOT* TO BE *KIDDING* ME! YOU'VE *STALKED* ME! *TERRORIZED* ME! AND NOW YOU THINK I'D WANT TO *BE* WITH YOU?!

NOVA! STOP! *TURN TO ENERGY FIRST!*

VERY WELL, BEAUTIFUL! YOU HAD YOUR *CHANCE!* TIME TO TASTE THE *FULL POWER* OF THE *ULTIMATE ATOMIZER!*

TZZZANG!

AAAARRRR!

NO!

THIS'LL SPREAD YOUR ATOMS SO FAR YOU'LL *NEVER* RE-FORM!

ZAP-ZANG!

AARRGGHH!

GET IT TOGETHER, NOVA! I'LL HOLD HIM OFF!

DON'T KNOW HOW *LONG* I CAN KEEP THIS UP.

TZANG! TZANG! TZANG!

YOUR EFFORTS ARE *FUTILE*, E-MAN! THIS WEAPON WAS *DESIGNED* WITH *YOU* IN MIND!

E-MAN! NOVA! HIS *TRANSPORT CAPSULE!* IT'S *LINED* WITH MIRRORS! GET HIM IN HERE AND HE'LL BE TRAPPED--HE *CAN'T PASS THROUGH MIRRORS!*

UNNOTICED BY THE COMBATANTS, A LONE, UNCERTAIN TENTACLE STIRS... THE BRAIN YET LIVES.

YOU *TRAITOROUS* MONSTROSITY! I'LL FINISH YOU FOR *GOOD* THIS TIME!

ALEC! *MERGE* WITH ME--WE CAN *BEAT* THIS GUY IF WE WORK *TOGETHER.*

SAY YOUR *GOODBYES*, LOSERS!

AAA-!

ZZAANG!

YOUR ROOM IS READY, FREDDIE!

PUNT!

HOPE YOU *ENJOY* YOUR STAY!

RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR!

SLAM!

NO! NO! LET ME OUT! YOU CAN'T *DO* THIS TO ME!

WE JUST *DID!*

I'D *HOOK UP* WITH YOU ANY DAY!

UH...YEAH. MAKE SURE I GET ALL MY *ELECTRONS* BACK, OKAY?

THE BRAIN WAS GOOD FOR ONE LAST RALLY... AND HE HELPED *US.*

REST IN PEACE...

...OLD FRIEND.

EPILOGUE.

Joe and NICK'S CAFE

HOW'S YOUR GREEN TEA?

NEWS

NOT BAD. HOW'S YOUR SQUID ON TOAST?

I SHOULD'VE GONE WITH THE FLUFFERNUTTER.

SQUID on TOAST

GREEN TEA

JERKY

SO...NOT A BAD IDEA I CAME UP WITH TO KEEP *SEYMOUR* OUT OF OUR HAIR, EH?

GOTTA GIVE YOU *CREDIT* ON THAT ONE!

YEAH, I STUDIED *UNDERGROUND CRYSTAL CAVERNS* FRESHMAN YEAR. WERE THEY HARD TO GET TO?

NOT FOR ME! THE CAVERNS WERE *EXACTLY* HOW YOU DESCRIBED THEM.

THE CRYSTALS ARE LIKE *GLASS...* OR *MIRRORS,* YOU MIGHT SAY. SEYMOUR WON'T BE LEAVING THERE ANYTIME SOON.

I'M A FAILURE!

...NO BETTER THAN THE BRAIN!

TRONN! RED! IT'S *PAYBACK* TIME!

I JUST GOT A *HELLACIOUS* CASE DROPPED IN MY LAP AN' I NEED YOUR *HELP!*

LET'S MOVE IT!!

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

SO WHAT'S THE *CASE*, MIKE?

YEAH, FILL US IN!

THIS ONE'S GOT IT *ALL!*

A *MISSING* DAME, *SHAPE-SHIFTING* ALIENS, AN' A SUPER-POWERED, *ENERGY DEVOURIN'* GIANT ROBOT!

Y'KNOW... THE *USUAL* STUFF.

The End

BEHIND THE SCENES OF E-MAN: RECHARGED!

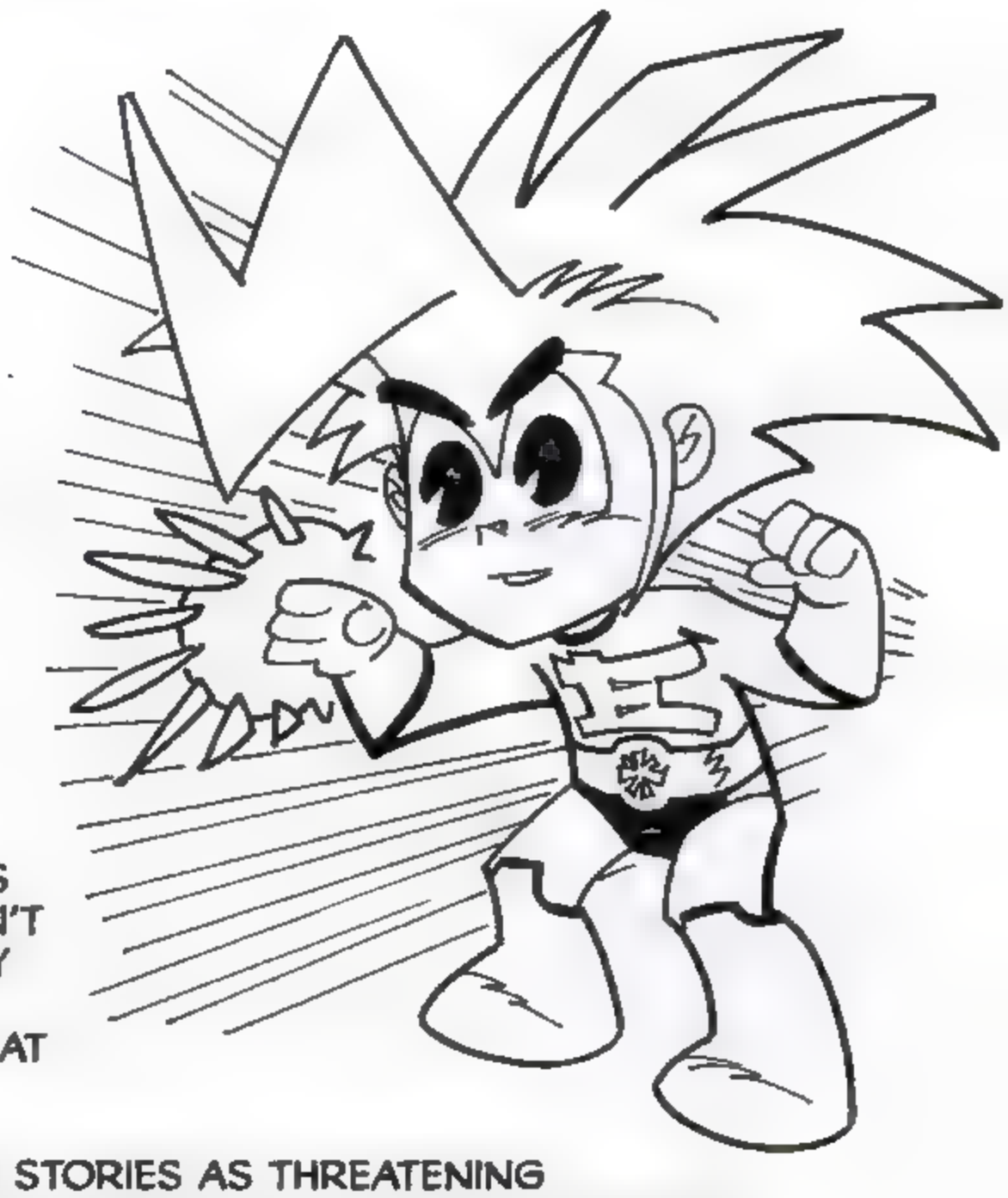
COMMENTARY BY NICK CUTI, JOE STATON & MATT WEBB

JOE: WHEN WE WERE THINKING ABOUT BRINGING E-MAN BACK FOR THIS ISSUE, WE COULD HAVE GONE WITH ANY STYLE TO MAKE THE CHARACTER MORE CONTEMPORARY. WE COULD HAVE GONE DARK AND GRITTY WITH THAT "IMAGE-Y" LOOK.

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY E-MAN WOULD LOOK GOOD IN ANIMATION, SO MAYBE IT WAS TIME FOR "THE E-MAN ADVENTURES."

BUT WHAT'S REALLY HOT TODAY SEEMS TO BE MANGA, SO THERE WAS THAT POSSIBILITY, TOO.

THERE WAS SOME TALK ABOUT "REBOOTING" THE WHOLE SERIES, STARTING OVER, AS THOUGH IT WERE ALL HAPPENING FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY. ULTIMATELY, WE DECIDED TO PICK UP AS IF THE PREVIOUS E-MAN STORIES HAD JUST HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.



THE ONLY NOTICEABLE ADJUSTMENT IS THAT NOVA'S HAIRSTYLE IS A BIT MORE MODERN AND SHE DOESN'T WEAR THOSE ADORABLE FASHIONS FROM THE EARLY 70s. AND MAUSER IS NOW COMPUTER LITERATE. (BEFORE, WE HAD WONDERED IF HE WERE LITERATE AT ALL).

BACK IN THE 70s, COMPUTERS APPEARED IN E-MAN STORIES AS THREATENING OBJECTS THAT HAD TO BE DESTROYED. IN THE FIRST COMICS RUN IN THE 80s, WE HAD E-MAN TURN HIMSELF INTO A PC TO RUN FLOPPIES.

NICK: I HAVE A TECHNIQUE FOR WRITING SCRIPTS AND IT'S THE ONE I USED FOR WRITING THIS ISSUE OF E-MAN. I WRITE MY SCRIPTS BY HAND, FIRST AS AN OUTLINE. IF I'M GOING TO WRITE A 25 PAGE STORY, I DIVIDE A SHEET OF TYPING PAPER INTO 25 BLOCKS. THEN I WRITE WHAT I'M GOING TO INCLUDE ON EACH PAGE IN EACH BLOCK. AFTER THAT, I BREAK DOWN EACH PAGE OF THE STORY ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER AND HERE IS WHERE I DO MY SKETCHES.

THEY'RE CRUDE, BUT THEY HELP ME VISUALIZE THE ACTION OF THE STORY. AND I HOPE THEY'RE A HELP TO JOE. THESE "THUMBNAILS," AS THEY'RE CALLED, GIVE JOE THE OPTION OF EITHER GOING WITH MY LAYOUT OR COMING UP WITH A BETTER LAYOUT, WHICH HE SO OFTEN DOES.

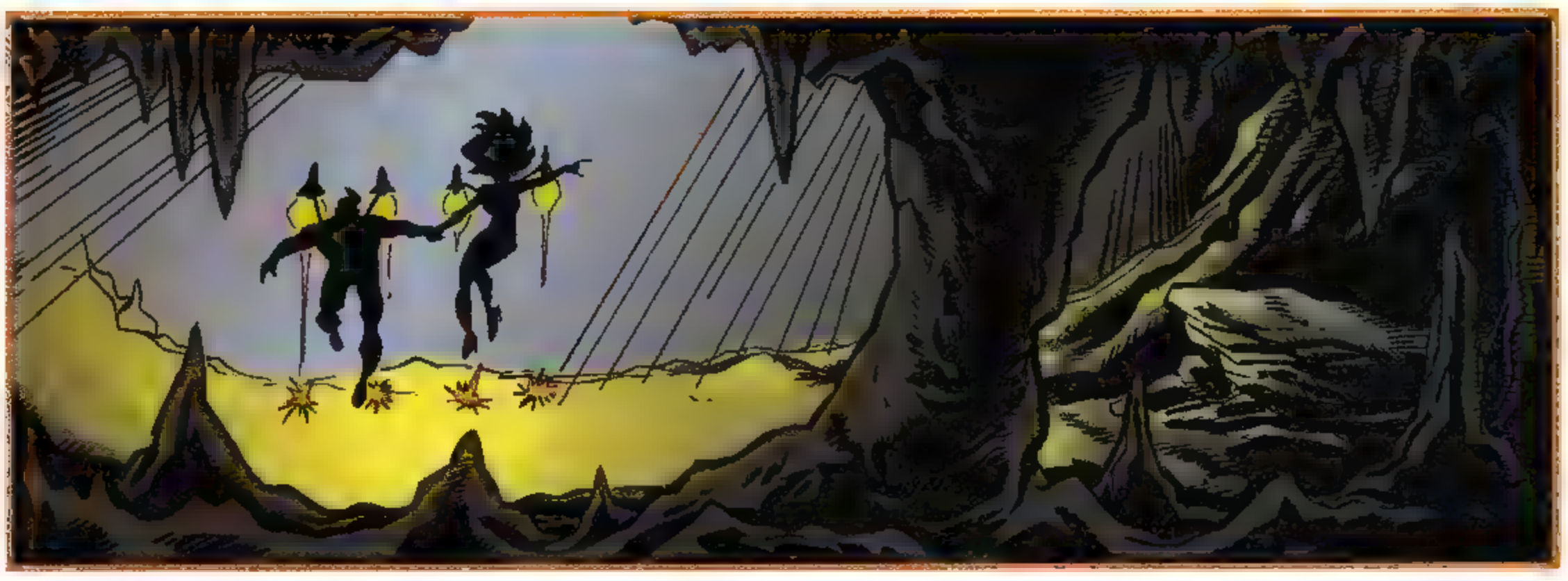
ROSIE, IF ANYONE IS LOOKING FOR ME I'LL BE IN MY DRESSING ROOM TAKING A BATH.
SURE, NOVA.
THE PRINCESS HAS HER OWN PRIVATE DRESSING ROOM AND BATH. WHOSE BUTT DID SHE HAVE TO KISS TO GET THAT?!
OH-OH!
I HEARD THAT!
ZZITZ!

I'M SURPRISED WHEN HE DOES USE ONE OF MY PAGE LAYOUTS, SINCE I PREFER JOE'S SET-UPS TO MINE. BUT IF THOSE "CHICKEN SCRATCHINGS" CAN SAVE HIM SOME TIME, THEN GREAT! AS MY MENTOR, WALLY WOOD, USED TO SAY, "WHATEVER GETS YOU PAST THE TERROR OF THE BLANK PAGE IS A GOOD THING."

MATT: GETTING THE CHANCE TO WORK ON A CHARACTER LIKE E-MAN WITH TWO OF MY CHILDHOOD HEROES, NICK CUT! AND JOE STATON, WAS SOMETHING I COULD NOT PASS UP.

THE CHALLENGE AS COLORIST WAS TO UPDATE THE LOOK OF THE FEATURE WHILE MAINTAINING THE OVERALL FEEL AND INTEGRITY OF THE ORIGINAL E-MAN SERIES.

AFTER MY INITIAL PAGES WERE TURNED IN, JOE AND EDITOR RANDY BUCCINI TORE ME A NEW ONE AND I PROCEEDED TO MAKE MANY CHANGES... ALL FOR THE BETTER! DON'T TELL RANDY BUT HE'S A VERY GOOD EDITOR! THIS JUST SHOWS THE GREAT LOVE AND ADMIRATION WE ALL HOLD FOR E-MAN AND EACH OTHER.



JOE: POOR MATT WEBB. WE KEPT TELLING HIM THAT E-MAN ISN'T ALL DARK AND GLOOMY, MAKE IT BRIGHT. SO WHAT DO WE GIVE HIM TO COLOR, BUT PAGE AFTER PAGE THAT TAKES PLACE AT NIGHT, IN A GLOOMY NIGHTCLUB, OUTER SPACE AND, FINALLY, IN SOME UNLIGHTED SUBTERRANEAN CAVES. I THINK IT'S JUST THE LAST COUPLE OF PAGES THAT ARE IN THE DAYLIGHT.

MATT: LET'S TALK FLASHBACKS!

FLASHBACKS ARE THOSE WONDERFUL STORYTELLING DEVICES THAT ALLOW ONE TO GO BACK IN TIME AND FOCUS ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PAST TO BRING A READER UP TO DATE OR FILL GAPS IN A CURRENT STORYLINE... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

OFTEN, I UTILIZE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT COLOR PALETTE TO MAKE FLASHBACKS STAND OUT FROM THE "PRESENT DAY" NARRATIVE. THIS MAKES IT FAIRLY OBVIOUS THE SEQUENCE OCCURRED IN THE PAST.

ORIGINALLY, I HAD COLORED THE FLASHBACKS OF E-MAN'S ORIGIN AND FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE BRAIN IN COOL BLUES. ON SEEING THE FINISHED PAGES, JOE FELT THE FLASHBACKS SHOULD BE BRIGHTER. HE AND NICK WERE RETELLING E-MAN'S STAR-EXPLODING ORIGIN, AFTER ALL. AFTER GIVING IT SOME THOUGHT, I APPROACHED JOE WITH THE IDEA OF RE-COLORING THE FLASHBACKS IN THE STYLE THEY WERE ORIGINALLY DONE IN THE 70s.

JOE HAD VERY KINDLY SENT ME THE FIRST COMICS REPRINTS OF THE CHARLTON ISSUES THAT HAD BEEN COLORED BY WENDY FIORE. I THOUGHT USING THESE BOOKS AS MY GUIDE WOULD BE A NICE TIP OF THE HAT TO WENDY AS I LOVE THE LOOK OF THOSE ISSUES.

MATT: THUS, THE "NEW" FLASHBACKS ARE NOW AN HOMAGE TO THE "OLD" BOOK AND I RATHER LIKE THEM!

JOE: I THINK THAT MATT DID A GREAT JOB INCORPORATING THE FLASHBACK SEQUENCES WITH COLORS BASED ON WENDY'S COLORS.

CHARLTON COMICS HAD THE MOST PRIMITIVE HANDS-ON COLOR SEPARATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME, SO WENDY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO WORK WITH.

SHE MADE IT WORK BACK THEN AND MATT'S MADE IT WORK WITH CONTEMPORARY PHOTOSHOP COLORING THIS TIME AROUND.

NICK: OUR VILLAIN IN THIS ISSUE PROVIDED SEVERAL GOOD EPISODES IN THIS STORY. I HAD COME UP WITH THE CHARACTER A LONG TIME AGO. I ORIGINALLY CREATED HIM AS AN ANTAGONIST FOR ONE OF MY OTHER COMICS SERIES BUT NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PEN THAT STORY SO I KEPT HIM IN MY HEAD UNTIL HE WAS NEEDED FOR E-MAN.

I WONDERED WHAT SORT OF VILLAIN WOULD CAUSE THE MOST PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS FOR A HERO. I DECIDED IT WAS A VILLAIN YOU COULDN'T ESCAPE FROM BECAUSE HE WAS BOTH INVISIBLE AND ABLE TO PASS THROUGH WALLS. HOW DO YOU HIDE FROM SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

JOE: I DON'T DO MUCH OF MY OWN INKING THESE DAYS. WHEN I DO, I LIKE TO WORK WITH LOTS OF SHADOWS AND BLACKS. THE SEQUENCE IN THE CAVES WITH THE BRAIN IN THIS STORY WAS A LOT OF FUN, ESPECIALLY THE BIT WHERE SEYMOUR CLEARY EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS ALONG THE CAVE WALL.

WHENEVER I DO MY OWN INKING, I KEEP LOOKING AT THE FINISHED PAGE AND SEEING ANOTHER PLACE WHERE I CAN DROP IN MORE BLACK. SO IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SAY WHEN A PAGE IS FINALLY FINISHED.

WHEN I LOOK BACK AT THOSE OLD E-MAN COMICS, THEY DON'T LOOK BAD, BUT THEY LOOK SORT OF UNFINISHED. I WONDER WHY I DIDN'T PUT IN MORE BLACKS AND SHADOWS. I THOUGHT THEY LOOK FINISHED BACK THEN. I GUESS WENDY FIORE SAVED IT IN THE COLORING.

MATT: BOTTOM LINE: THIS WAS AN IMMENSELY FUN BOOK TO BE PART OF AND I SINCERELY HOPE ALL OF YOU ENJOY IT AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED PUTTING IT TOGETHER.

JOE: IT'S ANOTHER E-MAN #1. HOPEFULLY, IT WON'T BE ANOTHER TEN YEARS BEFORE WE DO IT AGAIN!

NICOLA CUTI
made his first professional sale in comics to Warren Publishing's ***Creepy*** magazine with the science fiction tale ***Grub*** He's written sci-fi, horror and super-hero stories for Charlton (where he co-created ***E-Man***), DC, First and Marvel Comics. He is a two-time winner of the Ray Bradbury Award for writing excellence and two-time recipient of the Kids First! Award for children's videos. In the animation industry, Nick worked as a background designer for Disney, Universal Studios and Sony Pictures on the television series ***Gargoyles***, ***Conan the Adventurer***, ***Dilbert***, ***The Critic***, and ***101 Dalmatians***. Nick is currently working on feature film adaptations of two of his comic creations, ***Grub*** and ***Captain Cosmos***.

JOE STATON
began his comics career illustrating for Warren Publishing's horror magazines From there he moved on to Charlton Comics (where he co-created ***E-Man***), Marvel and DC where he drew the revival of the ***Justice Society of America***, ***Huntress***, ***Superboy and the Legion of Super-Heroes***, ***Metal Men***, ***Plastic Man***, ***Guy Gardner***, ***The New Guardians***, and ***Green Lantern***. In the 1980s, he served as art director for First Comics. He is an Inkpot Award recipient and artist of the Eisner Award-winning Best New Graphic Album, ***Batman & Superman Adventures: World's Finest***. Joe currently draws ***Scooby Doo*** for DC.

MATT WEBB
has colored comics for publishers including Dark Horse, DC, and Marvel. His colors have graced the pages of ***John Byrne's Next Men***, ***X-Men Unlimited***, ***X-Men Chronicles***, ***Spider-Girl***, ***Green Lantern***, ***Star Trek*** and ***The Phantom***. His current work includes ***The Black Plague*** and ***War of the Worlds*** for Boom! Studios.

SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO DWP@DIGITALWEBBING.COM

We'd like to hear from you regarding our E-Man revival. Please write to us at the address above.

We sent preview copies of this issue to several longtime comics fans. We're happy to present their responses to you -- right here, right now.

The Gang's All Here!

What a treat to at long last read another fun, fast-paced E-Man adventure. What amazed me was how much he hasn't changed at all. Still very much the same colorful group of characters. Nova is lovely as ever, and having Mike Mauser make a cameo was just icing on the cake.

Even the obligatory flashback "for those who just came in" was worthwhile, and I can tell Joe was having a blast drawing in his "old" style. That was nice, as it allowed some on-the-spot comparison with his new work, which shines off the pages.

All in all, an auspicious beginning for E-Man and Digital Webbing. Please don't make us wait another ten years for a sequel. Now that would be cruel and inhumane!

Ron Fortier
Somersworth, NH

E-Ticket Ride

In an ever-shrinking market, or so the doomsayers would have you think, wouldn't today's creators want a guidebook on how to produce a kick-bootay comic book?

Well, this E-Man is just that book: strong plot, crisp dialogue, and a great ending (although is it too much to hope we see the robots and the aliens sometime soon?), instead of plotting for the inevitable trade paperback and a denouement that just can't come quickly enough, if it comes at all.

And the recaps of past events had to be the least painful expositions I've read in ages. No, *this* is how a comic book should be put together.

And the Cuti-Staton partnership is definitely one of those great teams that are more than the sum of their considerable parts, just like Lee & Kirby, Claremont & Byrne, O'Neill & Adams, et al. And this story works so effortlessly, like they never stopped working together for (Cough! Cough!) years. And their efforts are comple– mented by Matt Webb's colors and Ed Dukeshire's lettering. And Nova's never looked better!

Nick 'n' Joe aren't the only old friends we get to see here. The Brain, Rosie, Michael, Teddy and Arachne ... be still my heart. If this book is printed on badly cut newsprint, I'm halfway back to the 70s and it's a ride worth taking.

You want a critical review, look elsewhere. I'm in my happy place right now and I hope this book succeeds for all of you ... and for me, because I want to see how Alec and Nova rescue that poor woman from the shape-shifters and the giant robot. It can't happen soon enough.

Brian K. Morris
Champaign, IL

You Can't Keep A Good E-Man Down

Whoopie! Another E-Man Comic!

Probably the most enduring character to originate in the lamented Charlton Comics, E-Man keeps coming back, again and again and again!

Newcomers will enjoy Joe Staton's truly distinctive style, Nick Cuti's storyline, which is a welcome break from the hackneyed, self-important bombast of the superhero genre, and some truly gorgeous coloring--something that was notably absent in the original Charlton Comics of thirty years ago.

Old-timers and newcomers, rejoice! E-Man's back again!

Walt Wentz
Forest Grove, OR

A Star Is Reborn

I just finished reading the new E-Man comic, and I've got to say, I LOVED it!

E-Man's been missing from the newsstands for way too long, and it's good to know he (along with Nova, Michael Mauser, and Teddy Q) will be reappearing in comic stores soon. I've missed all of the gang!

So, let me get down to the brass tacks, starting with the art: Joe Staton is still at the top of his game. Heck, he's even better now than he was last time he did an E-Man tale! Nova is still the sexiest woman in comics, Mauser is still the scuzziest man in comics...it's all good! The story flowed very naturally, and the storytelling was top-notch.

So far as the story itself goes, I should've guessed who would be behind the latest plot against E-Man and Nova! As E-Man said, it always seems to get back to him sooner or later (I'm being canny about mentioning his name in case this letter is published, and someone picks the book up from the rack and reads the letter column first. I wouldn't want to spoil it for them!).

The humor in the tale was perfectly balanced with action, as I've come to expect from Nick Cuti at his best (as much as I enjoyed the First Comics E-Man stories, I felt they sometimes tried to put too much humor into each issue. This definitely felt much more natural).

I especially liked the names "Seymour Cleary" and "Sara Bellum." Then again, the latter's name was also used in "The Powerpuff Girls," and I'm sure many times before that. It's a good pun name!

Thanks again for letting me preview this book. I look forward to buying it when it hits the stores, and I hope it'll be the first of many new E-Man tales to come!

Jon B. Knutson
Lacey, WA

Detailed Investigation

I hadn't realized how much I missed E-Man until I read this issue! Nick's script was as delightful as ever, and Joe's artwork is even better than it was when he did the early Charlton issues which were such fun to read.

The coloring was superb. Matt Webb shows us how sparkling a comic page can be! And on your final page, the gum on the bottom of gumshoe Mike Mauser's shoe was a very nice touch. I dearly love the little details that adorn the E-Man work!

Howard Leroy Davis
Pitman, NJ

Sirius Business

Just had a chance to preview the E-Man Special. Wow! It's as if E-Man and Nova Kane have never been away! I especially like the way in which Messrs. Cuti and Staton have made this issue very accessible to new readers. They could easily have assumed their readers were aware of the Charlton and First series, but instead they opted to make this a great introduction to the story and characters.

The origins of E-Man and girlfriend Nova Kane are carefully woven into the rest of the story, even finding room for old-time favorites like Michael Mauser and Teddy.

The story itself surprised me. That arch-villain The Brain from Sirius would be back, I had little doubt. But that he would be "laid-off" by his Sirian superiors was quite a surprise for me!

New villains Sarah Bellum and Seymour Cleary didn't appeal to me too much, although they did get me interested in seeing what other villains populate Sirius.

All in all, a great issue to start off new publications featuring Alec Tronn and friends. I'm sure readers new and old will be delighted with this tantalizing one-shot!

Success with your future publications. I will be sure to order each issue that comes out!

Ramon Schenk
The Netherlands

We'd like to make note of those who assisted in the production of this issue. Special thanks to Cynthia Buccini, John Cranton, Mike Giampietro, Deon Nuckols, Liz Plourde, and Hilarie Staton.

* * *

The poem The Man Who Wasn't There, ***a variation of which is featured on page thirteen of our story, was written by New York University professor William Hughes Mearns for the play*** Antigonish ***in 1899.***

* * *

If you love E-Man as much as we do, you'll want to check out the wonderful website Rome Maynard has put together. Head on over to the only website dedicated entirely to E-Man at:
http://alectronn.homestead.com/Eman.html

Still Joltin' After All These Years

I am so glad to see that E-Man still gives me a "jolt" after more than thirty years since I first read E-Man #1 from Charlton Comics. I was a subscriber to that comic before it even hit the newsstands and found the character delightful from the beginning.

What makes the series work is that Nick Cuti and Joe Staton are a truly wonderful writer-cartoonist team. Nick does not write pretentious, pompous, and over-the-top comic books. He writes *fun* comic books, and the art of co-creator Joe Staton is ideally suited to illuminate Nick's wordplay.

What a relief to read a pleasant, "done-in-one" comic book, as opposed to one of those grim and gritty, interminably long epics that seem to interest so many comics fans lately. The story moved fast and worked on a couple of levels, firstly, to re-introduce E-Man to his old-time fans, then to bring new readers up to speed. The Plastic Man-style use of E-Man's powers gave me a few chuckles as well.

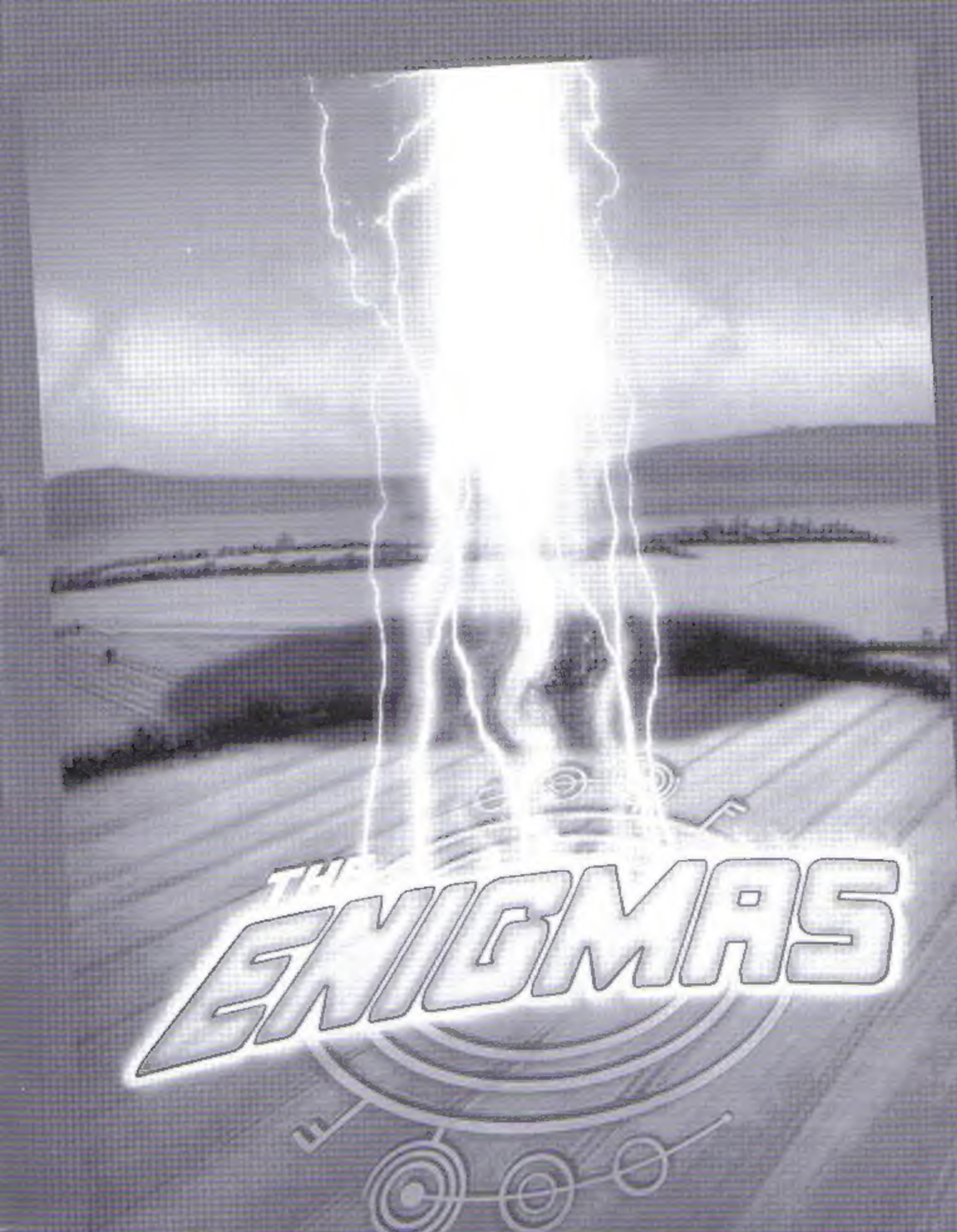
It was great seeing Michael Mauser and Teddy Q again, as well as that long flashback. This issue was like a nice trip back in time.

Of course, Nick and Joe's Cafe gave me further chuckles. If "the boys" serve up more helpings of E-Man, Nova, et al, I will be lining up for seconds.

Steve Cohen
Norwood, MA

Thank you to all our letter writers. And remember, we want to hear from YOU! Future issues of E-Man will depend on reader support. Thanks for being with us!

Randy Buccini
Editor



MAKE CONTACT

- #1 NOVEMBER

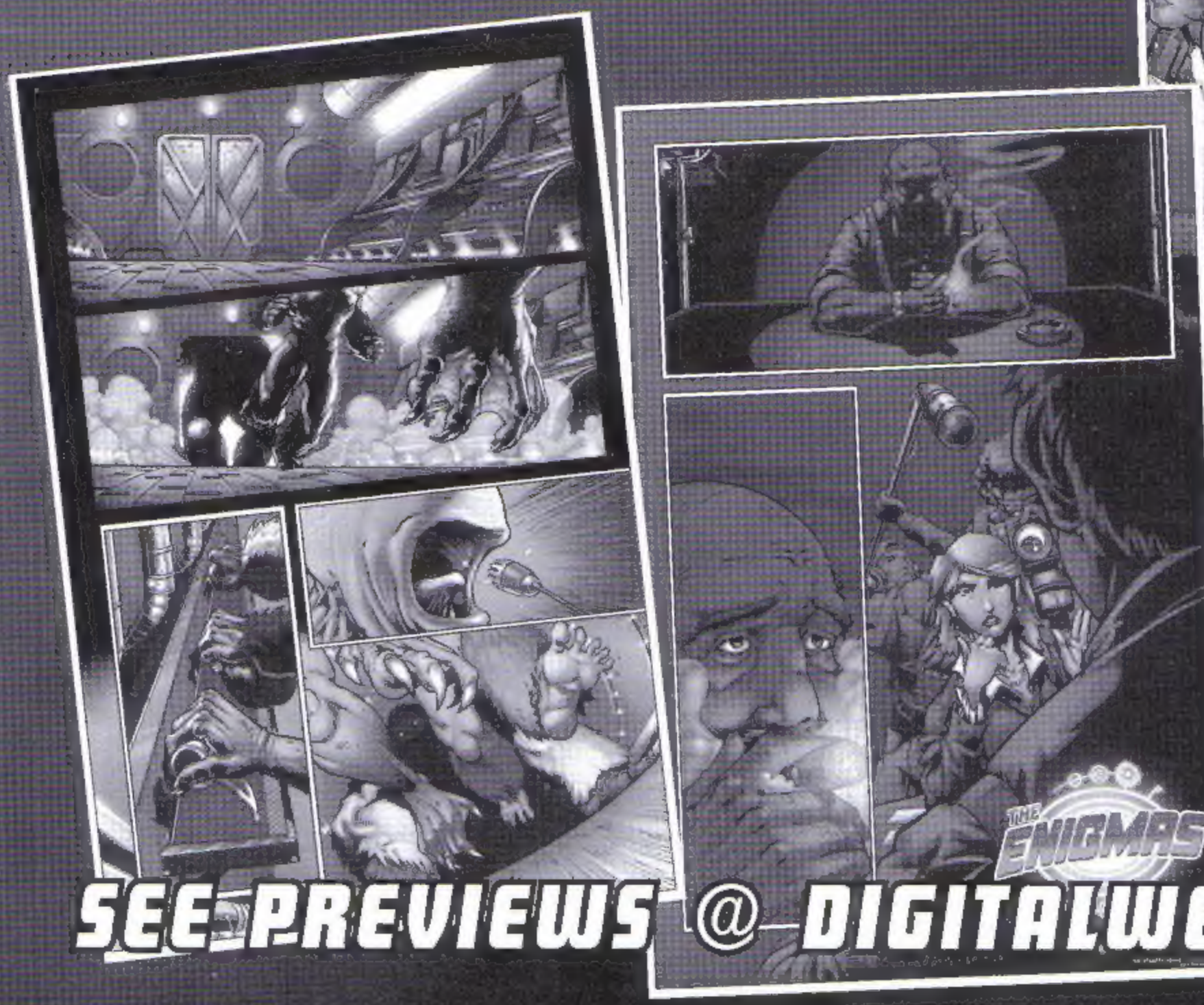
Big Foot, The Loch Ness Monster, The Abominable Snowman, and an alien survivor of The Roswell Incident! Together, these four mysterious legends form "The Enigmas."

In this one-shot issue, the secretive squad investigates a paranormal statue in the Sunshine state and encounters an unexpected enemy: The Illuminati!

By Dustin Yee (colorist on BloodRayne: Plague of Dreams) and Casey Maloney

48 PAGE PRESTIGE FORMAT BOOK!

Full color, square-bound, jam-packed from cover-to-cover.



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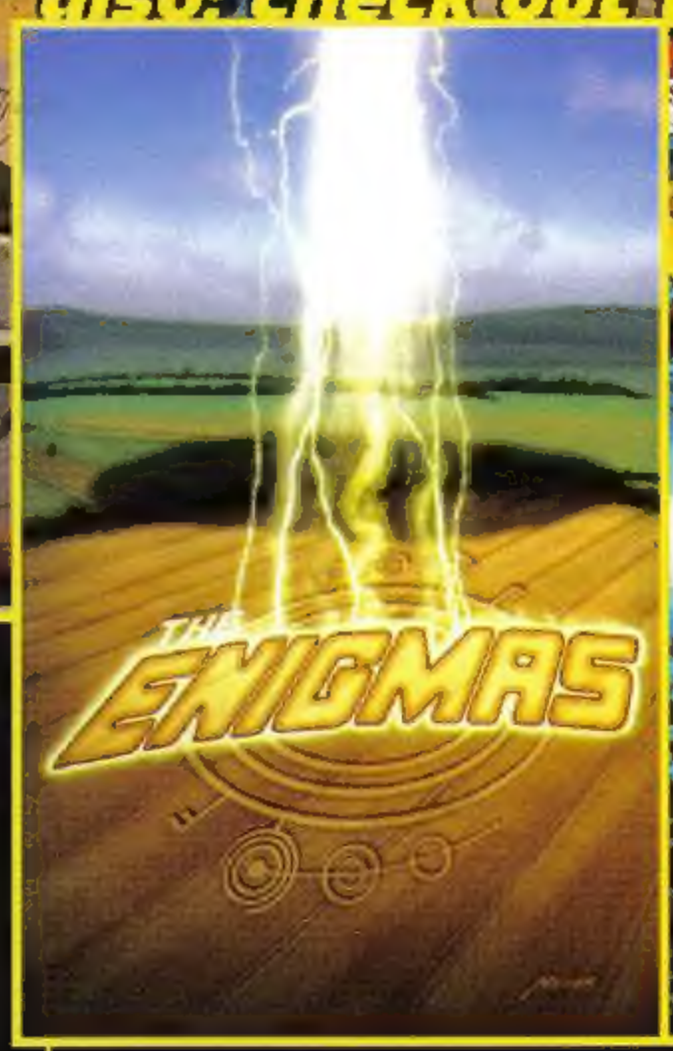

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